

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

We are writing today in support of the application for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) submitted by Michigan State University. It is our strong belief that Michigan State University is the optimum choice for the FRIB selection.

The U.S. Nuclear Science Advisory Committee's Rare Isotope Beam Task Force described MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) as "the nation's premier rare isotope facility" in its August 2007 report. NSCL has a long history of scientific leadership and discovery at the leading edge of rare isotope research. In addition, NSCL has been recognized for its superior management experience and has an exceptional record of user support, including outstanding availability and reliability rates for its superconducting heavy-ion accelerator and rare-isotope beam production and delivery systems.

MSU also brings significant strengths that go beyond the scientific and management skills demonstrated at NSCL. As one of the top 100 research universities in the world, MSU offers a critically important element to this competition – the integration of discovery on the frontiers of science with education and training of the next generation of scientists and engineers. While all scientific user facilities have an educational role, locating the FRIB on a university campus would have a far larger educational impact than could be achieved elsewhere. At MSU, over 100 graduate and undergraduate students currently participate in the experiments, operations, and maintenance of the NSCL facility itself. The students are able to be involved in all aspects of scientific discovery that occur in the lab, from conceptualization to implementation, rather than only being engaged on the relatively small subset of tasks dealing with specific experiments. The skills and expertise that these students obtain in that process are in high demand by the national laboratories, the private sector, and academia, where they continue to make important contributions in diverse areas, such as national security, cancer treatment, and both fundamental and applied research.

From our discussions with MSU President Lou Anna Simon, we understand her strong personal commitment and support to the FRIB project and her commitment that the university will deliver the new facility on cost and on schedule while meeting or exceeding the Department's stated performance objectives. In addition to its excellent record of performance in operating NSCL, the university's track record over many years in successfully managing large projects using best industrial practices stands as proof of its ability to achieve the Department of Energy's goals for FRIB.

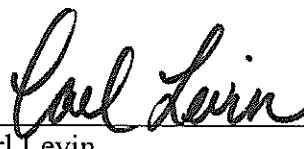
The entire State of Michigan is galvanized behind this project – elected officials, business and labor leaders, and high tech and venture capitalists are all supporting the efforts to bring this project to the State. This project is of critical importance to our state and is key to maintaining U.S. world leadership in rare isotope research and to creating significant new science-related jobs in Michigan and the U.S.

We offer our strongest support for the application recently submitted by Michigan State, and we request the opportunity to meet with you in person during the week of September 8th, along with key business and community leaders, so that you can hear first hand the community's support for this proposal and its importance to the State of Michigan.

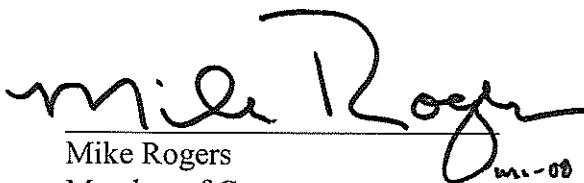
Sincerely,



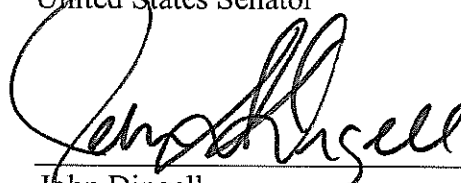
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Carl Levin  
United States Senator



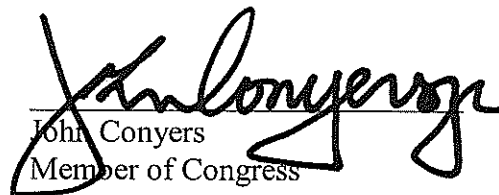
Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



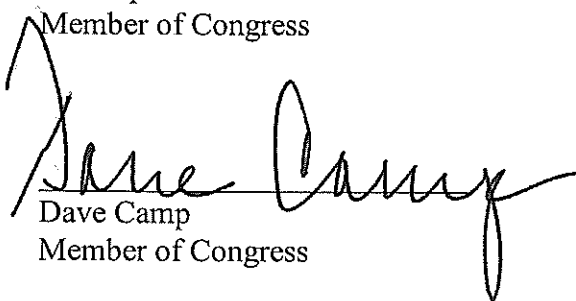
John Dingell  
Member of Congress



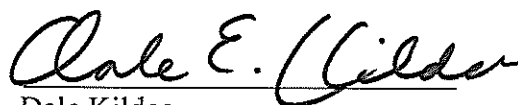
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



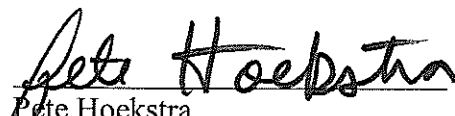
John Conyers  
Member of Congress



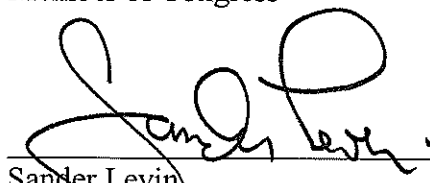
Dave Camp  
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



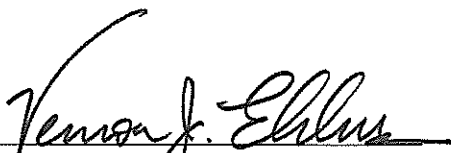
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress




Joe Knollenberg  
Member of Congress

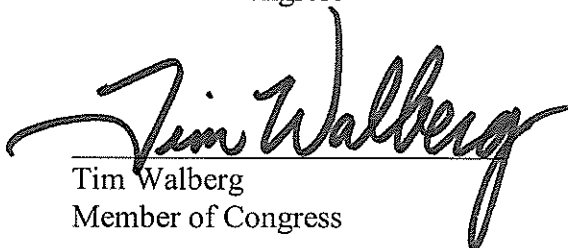


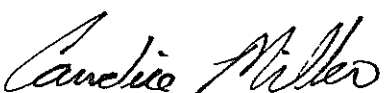
Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

  
Vernon Ehlers  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick  
Member of Congress

  
Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

  
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Ray Orbach, Under Secretary